which it nearly resembles in its sensible properties. It is not only a popular remedy in the country, but many physicians place great reliance on its powers in rheumatic complaints, so that apothecaries generally give it a place in their shops. It is most frequently given in decoction, an ounce being boiled in about a quart of water. Dr. George Hayward, of Boston, informs me, that he formerly took this decoction in his own case of chronic rheumatism with evident relief. It was prepared as above stated, and about a pint taken in the course of a day, diluted with water sufficient to render it palatable by lessening the pungency. It was warm and grateful to the stomach, produced no nausea nor effect upon the bowels, and excited little, if any, perspiration.

I have given the powdered bark in doses of ten and twenty grains in rheumatic affections with considerable benefit. A sense of heat was produced at the stomach by taking it, but no other obvious effect. In one case it effectually removed the complaint in a few days. I have known it, however, to fail entirely in obstinate cases, sharing the opprobrium of failure with a variety of other remedies.

The Prickly ash has been employed by physicians in some cases as a topical stimulant.

It produces a powerful effect when applied to secreting surfaces and to ulcerated parts. In the West Indies much use has been made of the bark of another species, the Xanthoxylum *Clava Herculis*, in malignant ulcers, both internally administered and externally applied. Communications relating to its efficacy may be found in the eighth volume of the Medical and Physical Journal, and the fifth volume of the Transactions of the Medical Society of London.

By an ambiguity which frequently grows out of the use of common or English names of plants, the *Aralia spinosa*, a very different shrub, has been confounded with the Xanthoxylum. The Aralia, called *Angelica tree*, and sometimes *Prickly ash*, is exclusively a native of the warmer parts of the United States, being not found, to my knowledge, in the Atlantic states north of Virginia. Its flavour and pungency, as well as its general appearance, are different from those of the true Prickly ash. It is nevertheless a valuable stimulant and diaphoretic, and in Mr. Elliott's Southern Botany, we are told that it is an efficacious emetic. For the latter purpose it is given in large doses, in infusion.

The name Xanthoxylum, signifying *yellow wood*, was originally given by Mr. Colden. The

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